

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 132028Z MAR 75

FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASH DC IMMEDIATE 5952

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 OECD PARIS 06543

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, OECD

SUBJECT: OECD MINISTERIAL DATES

REFS: TOSEC 409, TOSEC 431, SECTO 219

1. DURING COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 13, SEC GEN VAN LENNEP
PRESSED FOR IMMEDIATE DECISION ON MAY 27-28 AS DATES FOR
OECD MINISTERIAL. ONLY DELEGATION OPPOSING THESE DATES
WAS IRISH, WHO POINTED TO CONFLICT BETWEEN PROPOSED IEA
MINISTERIAL AND EC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING SCHEDULED
FOR MAY 26 AND ASKED THAT DECISION BE POSTPONED UNTIL
NEXT COUNCIL MEETING (SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 18). HE
SAID HE WAS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO PROPOSE THAT OECD
MINISTERIAL BE HELD MAY 28-29, BUT ADDED THAT IRELAND
WOULD CONTINUE TO CONSULT WITH EC PARTNERS ON SCHEDUL-
ING CONFLICT AND THAT IRISH POSITION MIGHT CHANGE AS
RESULT OF FURTHER CONSULTATION.

2. DISPLAYING CONSIDERABLE ANNOYANCE AT IRISH EFFORT TO
CHANGE MINISTERIAL DATES AT THIS LATE STAGE, AND WITH-
OUT ADVANCE CONSULTATION WITH SEC GEN OR MINISTERIAL
CHAIRMAN (UK), VAN LENNEP POINTED OUT THAT MAY 27-28
DATES HAD ELICITED GENERAL AGREEMENT OF OECD MEMBERSHIP
PRIOR TO EC DECISION TO HOLD FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING
MAY 26 AND ASSERTED THAT OECD, WHICH HOLDS COUNCIL
MINISTERIAL ONLY ONCE A YEAR, SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO
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ADJUST ITS SCHEDULE TO ALLOW FOR EC FOREIGN MINISTERS

MEETINGS, WHICH ARE FAR MORE FREQUENT IN OCCURENCE. HE POINTED OUT THAT SECOND DAY OF OECD MINISTERIAL WOULD, ACCORDING TO IRISH PROPOSAL, COINCIDE WITH NATO MINISTERIAL, A SITUATION WHICH WOULD LEAD, IN EFFECT, TO ONE-DAY OECD MINISTERIAL, WITH NATO COUNTRY FOREIGN MINISTERS MOVING ON TO BRUSSELS ON MAY 29. NO OTHER DELEGATION SUPPORTED IRISH PROPOSAL, WHILE JAPAN AND AUSTRIA ACCEPTED MAY 27-28 DATES. FRANCE SUBSEQUENTLY ACCEPTED 27 AND 28 AND NETHERLANDS AMBASSADOR CONFIRMED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT COULD AGREE TO THESE DATES AND KNEW NOTHING OF AN EC FOREIGN MINISTERS CONSENSUS IN DUBLIN. HAVING RECEIVED NEITHER SECTO 219 NOR RESPONSE TO DEPARTMENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO SECRETARY CONTAINED IN TOSEC 431 PRIOR TO COUNCIL MEETING, US REP DID NOT SPEAK TO ISSUE.

3. FOLLOWING COUNCIL MEETING IRISH DELEGATION WAS INFORMED THIS AFTERNOON BY DUBLIN OF SECRETARY'S DECISION CONTAINED IN SECTO 409. WE REPEATED GIST OF THIS MESSAGE TO SECRETARIAT AND TO BRITISH PERMREP, POINTING OUT DECISION ON NEW SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO IEA AND OECD CONFIRMATION. VAN LENNEP, HOWEVER, CONTINUES TO FEEL STRONGLY THAT IRISH SCENARIO IS MOST UNFORTUNATE FOR OECD MINISTERIAL MEETING. IN THIS HE WILL BE SUPPORTED BY SOME IF NOT MOST HEADS OF DEL. VAN LENNEP AND KEY HEADS OF DEL ARE AWARE THAT SECRETARY PLANS TO SPEND ONLY ONE DAY AT OECD MINISTERIAL. THEY ARE

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CONCERNED PRIMARILY THAT IRISH SCENARIO WOULD FORCE ALL NATO FOREIGN MINISTERS TO BE ABSENT. SINCE IT NOW SEEMS LIKELY THAT FINANCE MINISTERS WILL NOT ATTEND OECD MEETINGS BECAUSE OF SCHEDULING OF THEIR MEETINGS LATER IN JUNE, THIS WOULD VIRTUALLY ENSURE THAT THE SECOND DAY OF THE MEETING WOULD BE AT SENIOR OFFICIAL LEVEL. VAN LENNEP IS THEREFORE LOBBYING WITH EC HEADS OF DEL URGING THAT EC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING BE HELD ON ANOTHER DATE.

4. BALL IS NOW IN EC COURT. HOWEVER WE THINK IT WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR US TO BE ABLE TO CLARIFY US POSITION IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ALONG LINES OF DEPARTMENT'S RECOMMENDATION IN TOSEC 431, NAMELY, THAT WE PREFER TO RETAIN ORIGINALLY PROPOSED DATES IF THIS CAN BE ARRANGED WITHOUT CONFLICTING WITH EC MINISTERIAL CALENDAR BUT, IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE, WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT MAY 28-29 DATES PROPOSED BY IRISH.

5. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO TRANSMIT THIS MESSAGE TO SECRETARY'S PARTY.
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